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**>> In your current position with the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General and what are your responsibilities?**

I’m an investigator with the Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Control Unit of the attorney general’s office.

As investigators, we have the responsibility of investigating provider fraud, not the recipient Medicaid fraud, but the provider fraud — doctors, psychologists, podiatrists — those entities. We also have the responsibility of investigating abuse and neglect in Medicaid-funded facilities, like nursing homes and group homes. If there is an allegation of abuse and neglect, we have to respond to that. However, the prosecutors in our office will prosecute the provider fraud cases, but the abuse and neglect in the facilities is prosecuted by the jurisdiction in the county in which it occurs. So, we do the investigation and then work with the local attorneys to do something about it.

It is their jurisdiction and they want to handle the responsibility of what happens in their county, so it makes sense. But we have to develop a rapport with them. It is almost like every time we are in a different county, we have to educate the county or commonwealth attorney — ‘this is what I do, and you will prosecute it.’ But, we try to teach them how to do that and work with them to do it.

**Do you ever work with local law enforcement doing those investigations, or are these cases strictly something this office investigates?**

No, law enforcement has the opportunity to investigate any of the abuse and neglect in any of the facilities. They don’t do the provider frauds because they are definitely time consuming and take a lot of resources. They do not have the manpower, time or energy to do that. But as far as abuse and neglect, if something happens at a nursing home and they call local law enforcement immediately, they can take it and run with it. It is just important that somebody is looking into that abuse and neglect issue.

But, a lot of times they are so difficult because you do not have many witnesses, or competent witnesses, that it is hard for them to really proceed with it. We get a lot of the cases that no one else wants, actually.

**Since the inclination would be to call local law enforcement, how do you find out about abuse and neglect cases and end up in control of those?**

The facilities, by law, have to report all of the abuse and neglect issues to the Department of Community Based Services. Adult Protective Services takes a report as well. If it meets the criteria, they send one of the DCBS workers to the facility and investigate it as protection of the victim. They want to make sure the victim has the right resources and make sure he or she is protected. Then all those reports are sent to the attorney general’s office, county and commonwealth attorneys, local law enforcement — they are sent everywhere. If we review them and we believe it fits the criteria — that it is in a Medicaid facility and it meets the criteria of abuse and neglect (it could be criminal) — then we look at it. That is what you do in investigation. You look and see who all the players are. If local law enforcement are working it, that is fine. If they need any help, we are available.

With us, there are advantages because we can go look at records without any subpoenas. Adult Protective Services can get bank records without subpoenas. So, everybody works together in these cases. We work with Adult Protective Services, but if local law enforcement has a case and they can run with it, go. Sometimes there are credible witnesses, and it is clear cut. If there is a perpetrator and they can make an arrest and prosecute — go ahead. We